MARVEL

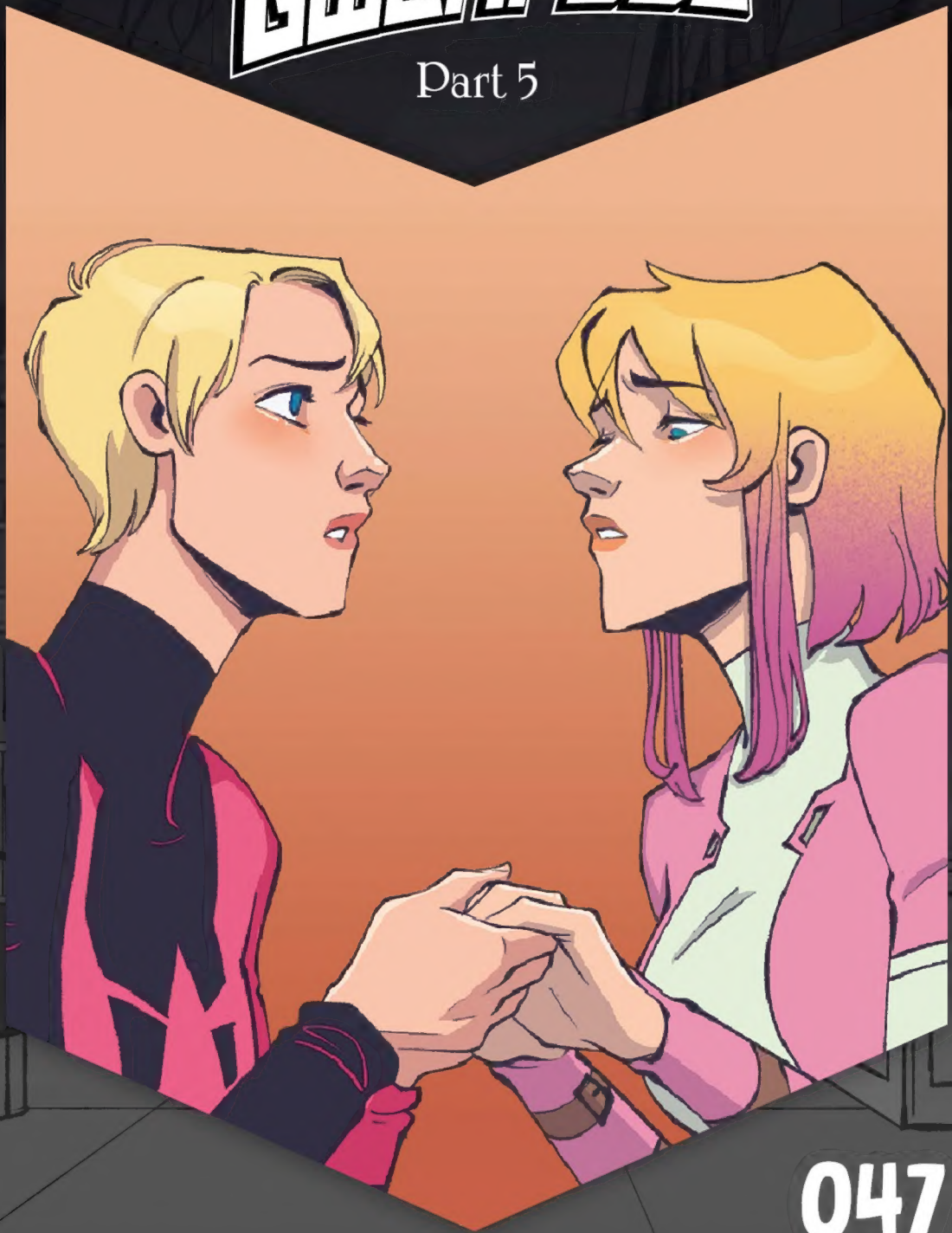
EXCLUSIVE

INFINITY COMICS

Love Unlimited

GWENPOOL

Part 5



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Love Unlimited #47

GWENPOOL

Part 5

Howdy, True Believers! Welcome back to another shocking tale that will send a shiver up your spine!

And look, it's me, special guest star Spider-Man! That means this one is important. Tell all your friends! It's collectible!

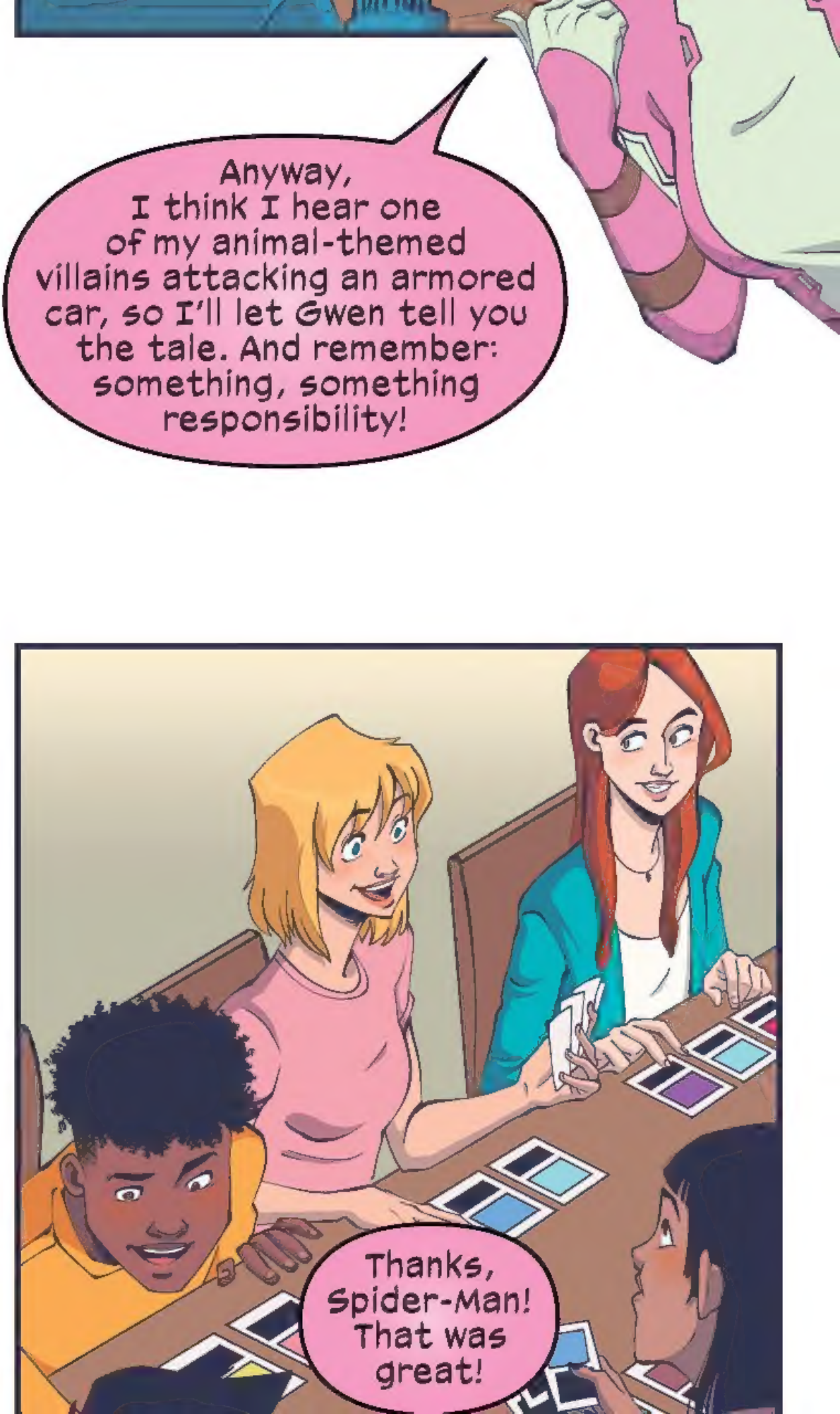
Today, we've got a special treat for you. The secret origin of The Merc with an Unhealthy Relationship with Space and Time:

THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL

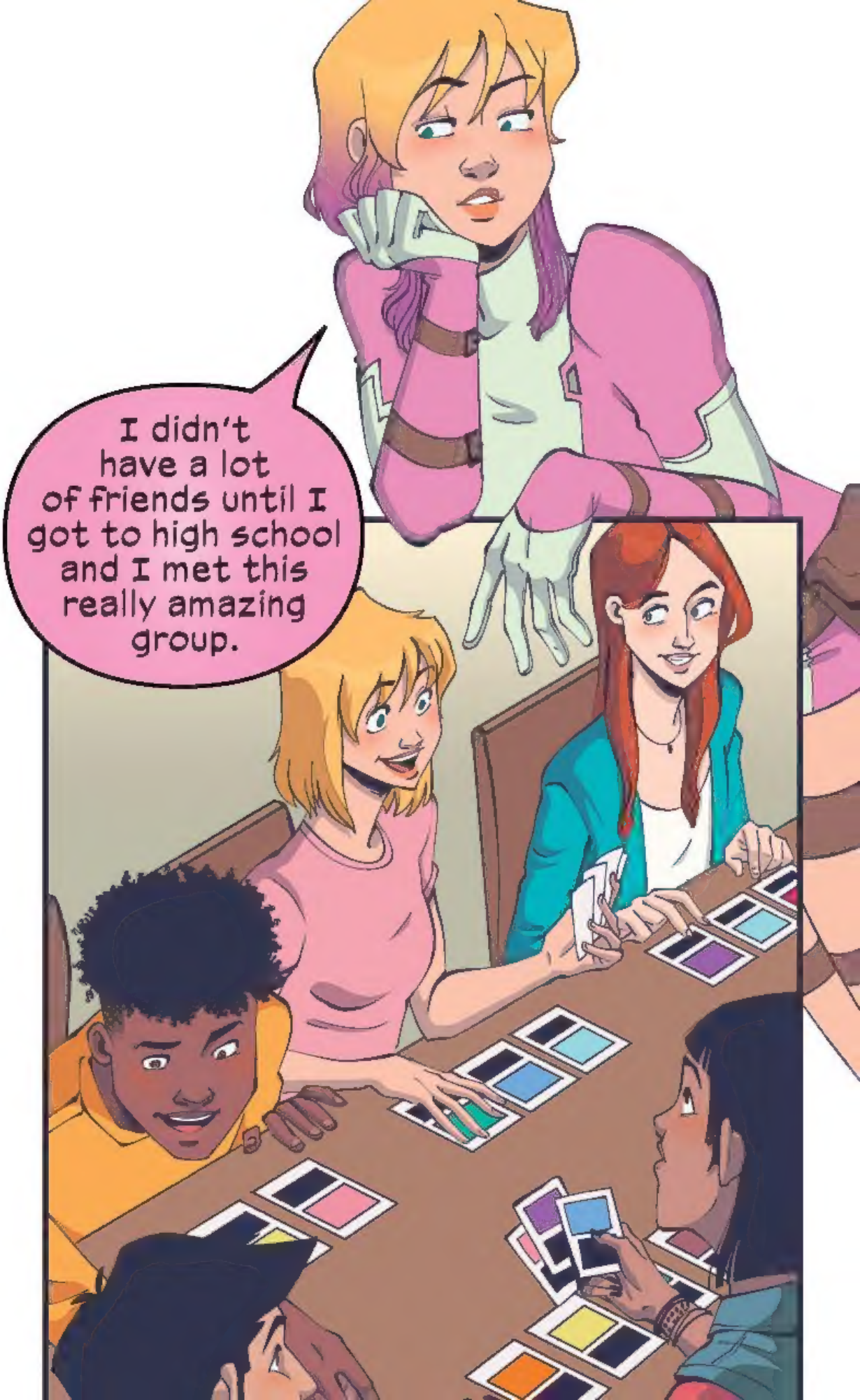
It starts in a world just like the one outside your window. Hey, probably even more than you think!

That's right, Merry Marvel Marching Society--just like you, Gwen grew up in a world where the daring do-gooders of our

stories only existed in comic books!


Anyway, I think I hear one of my animal-themed villains attacking an armored car, so I'll let Gwen tell you the tale. And remember: something, something responsibility!
Thanks, Spider-Man! That was great!

Anyway, yeah, once, I was an awkward kid in a world that might be yours, where people like Spider-Man and Julie Power are just comic book characters.

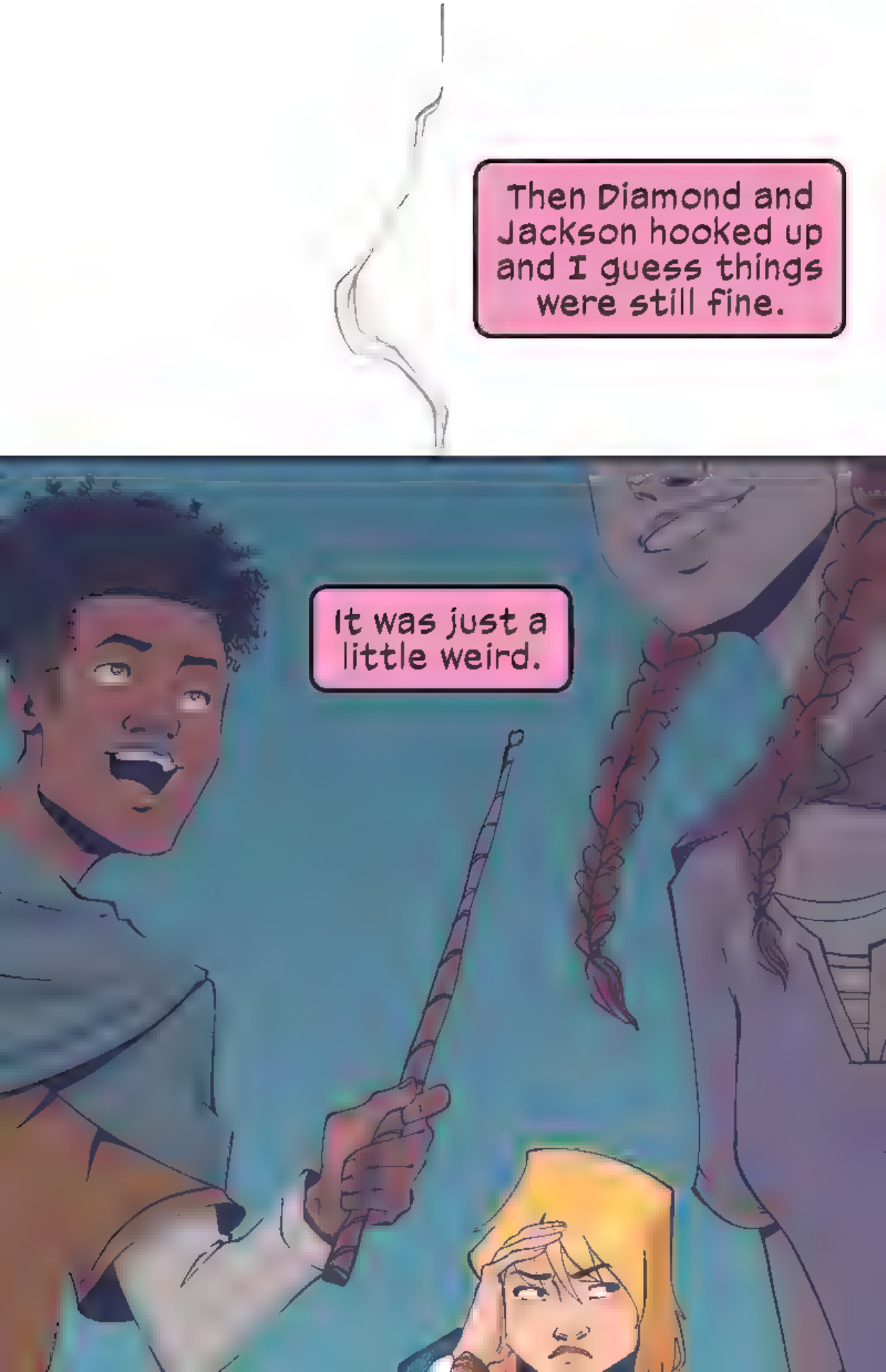

I didn't have a lot of friends until I got to high school and I met this really amazing group.

That redhead is Alice.

Then there's Riley with the cool hair...

...Jackson, who was our rules wonk...
...and Diamond, who was probably too cool for us.
We did everything together. We MMORPG'd. We TTRPG'd. We CCG'd. We even LARP'd.

It was the first time I felt like I really fit in somewhere.


Then Diamond and Jackson hooked up and I guess things were still fine.
It was just a little weird.

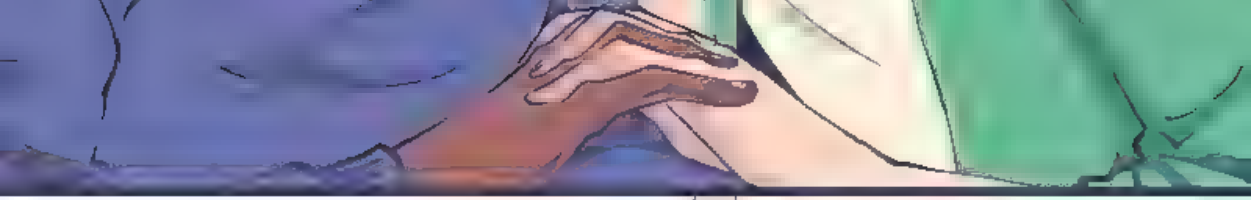
I mean, honestly, I was really there for Alice.

Alice got me, ya know? We liked the same music. We always rolled up complementary characters.

She dyed my hair for the first time! We were inseparable.

Until we weren't.

Then her and Riley were inseparable. Like...connected at the tongue.



Somehow, I was alone in a group.

And *that* made me feel more alone than ever.

The worst part is, it wasn't really their fault that I felt alone.

They all wanted me to have what they had.

Especially Alice.

She tried to set me up.

A LOT.

She'd invite people to our group hangouts.

She was constantly meeting people she just *had* to introduce me to.

Some of them even seemed like good matches.

(I was reading RUNAWAYS at the time and...well, you get it.)
But I never had the reaction she wanted me to have.
I never had those stupid "butterflies."

I wanted to scream:
I DON'T WANT SOMETHING ELSE! I JUST WANT US BACK!

But I didn't.
I didn't yell anything.
I just stopped going to school.

I told my parents I'd get my GED or something, but I didn't do that either.
I didn't really *do* anything. I just kinda...

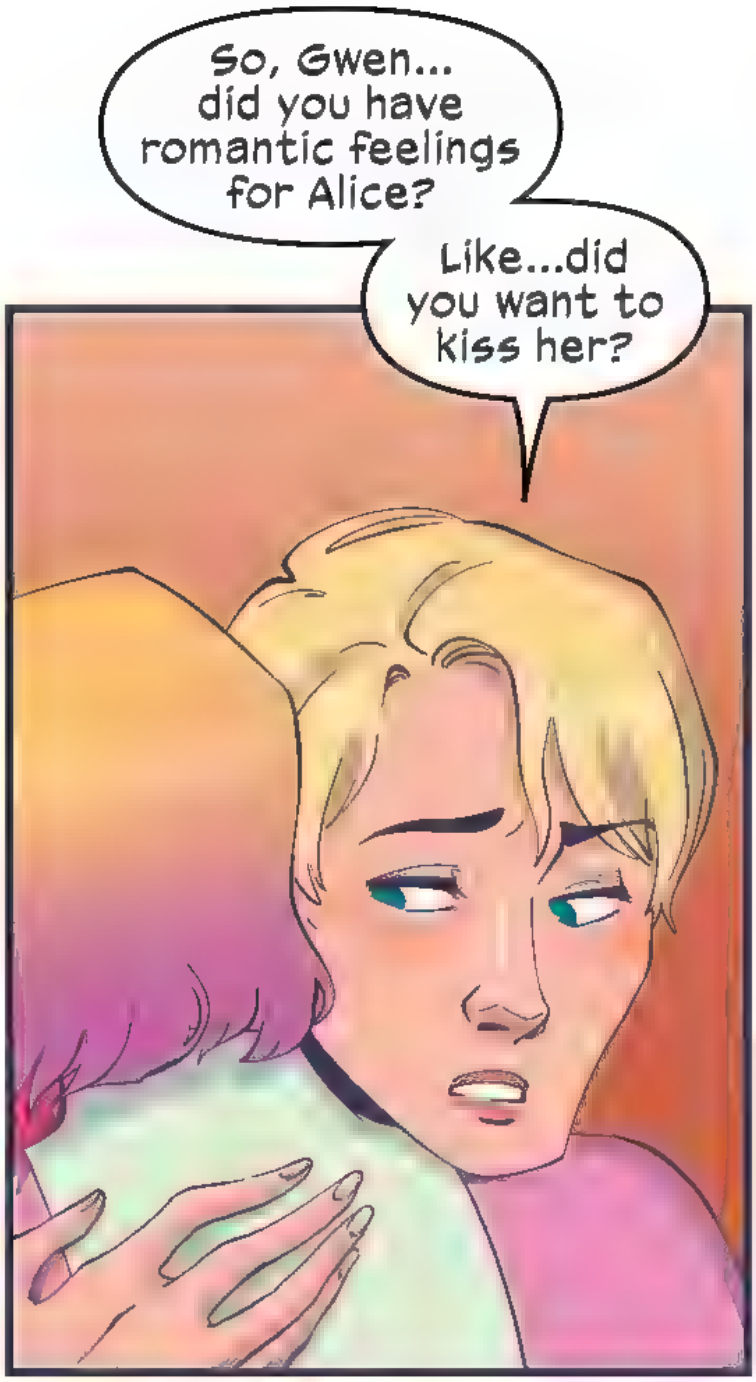
Until I ended up here and finally got the chance to be someone different.

So that's my boring origin story. No fireworks. No horse aliens.
Just a slow, creeping feeling of isolation.
You don't have to keep being so nice to me. It just makes me feel worse.

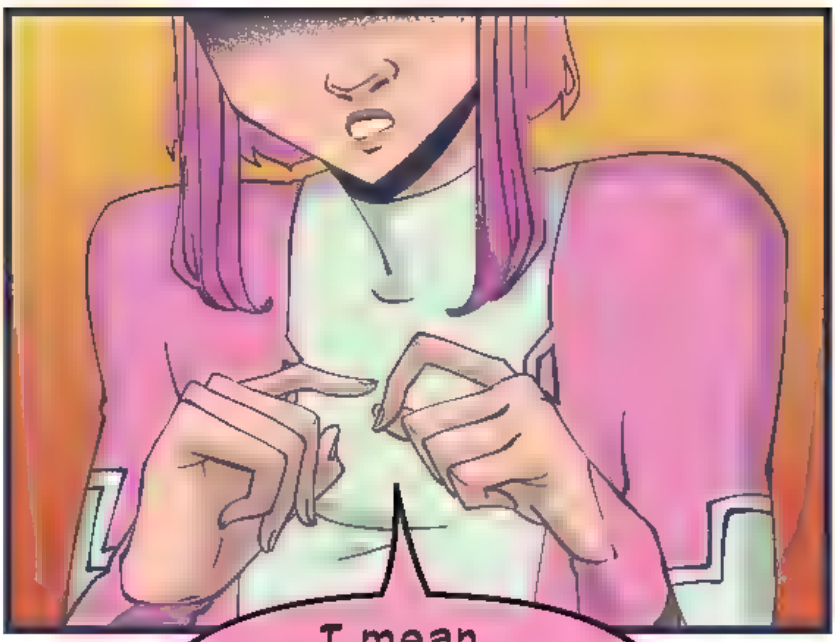
Gwen, it's okay. I'm a big girl. I can take being told "no."

I know... I just...
I *really* like you and I want to make you happy.
But I can't *make* myself want something that I *don't* want, and I don't want to *lie* to you about wanting it.

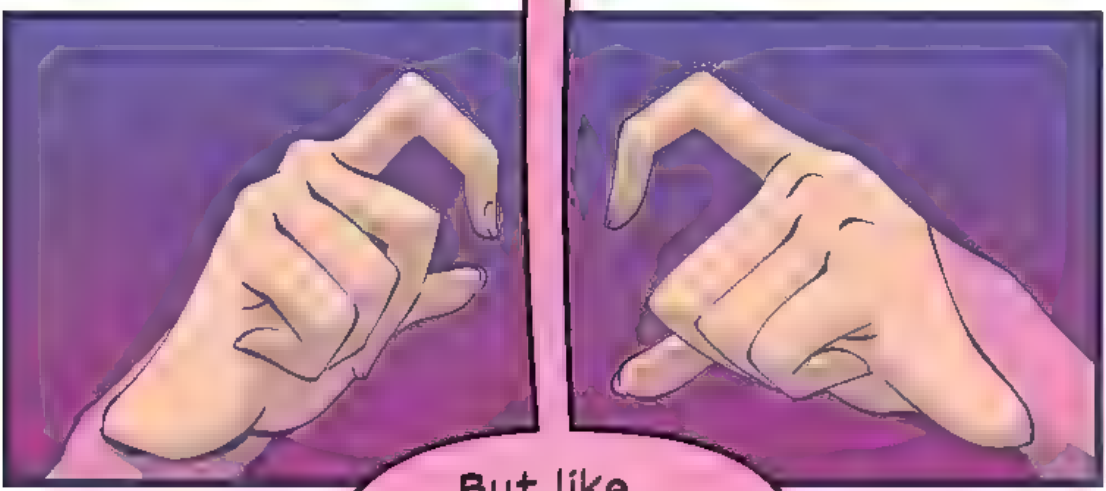
Gwen, I'm so sorry you went through all that. Can I give you a hug?
I'd like that.


So, Gwen... did you have romantic feelings for Alice?
Like...did you want to kiss her?

Okay...this is gonna make me sound like a monster, because I've kissed you A LOT.
But I don't ever really want to kiss anybody.



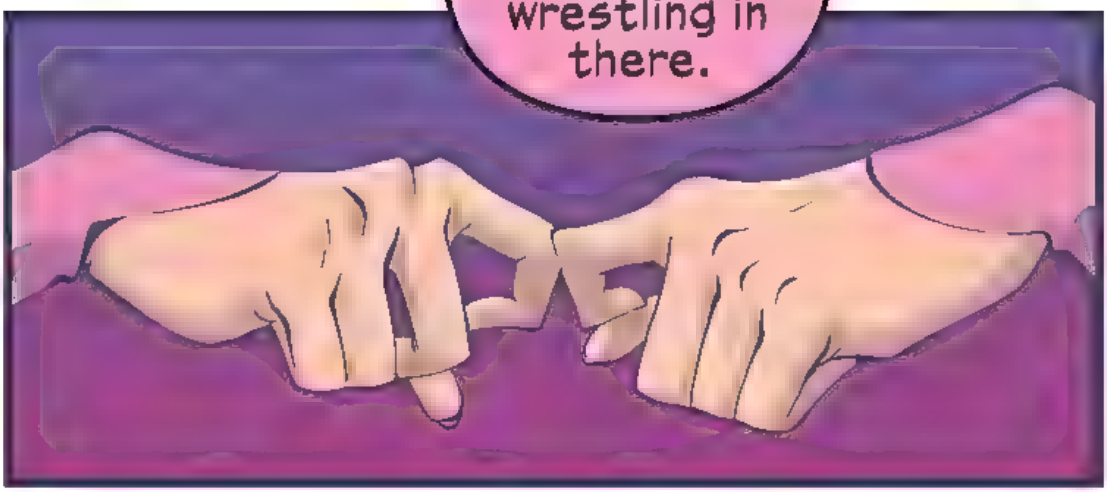
I mean, kisses on the cheek and forehead are great. They make me feel warm and fuzzy.



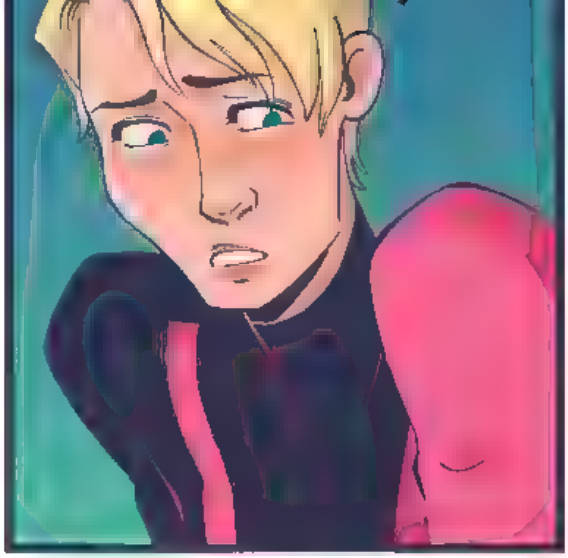
But like... ***kissing*** kissing...

it's kinda gross.

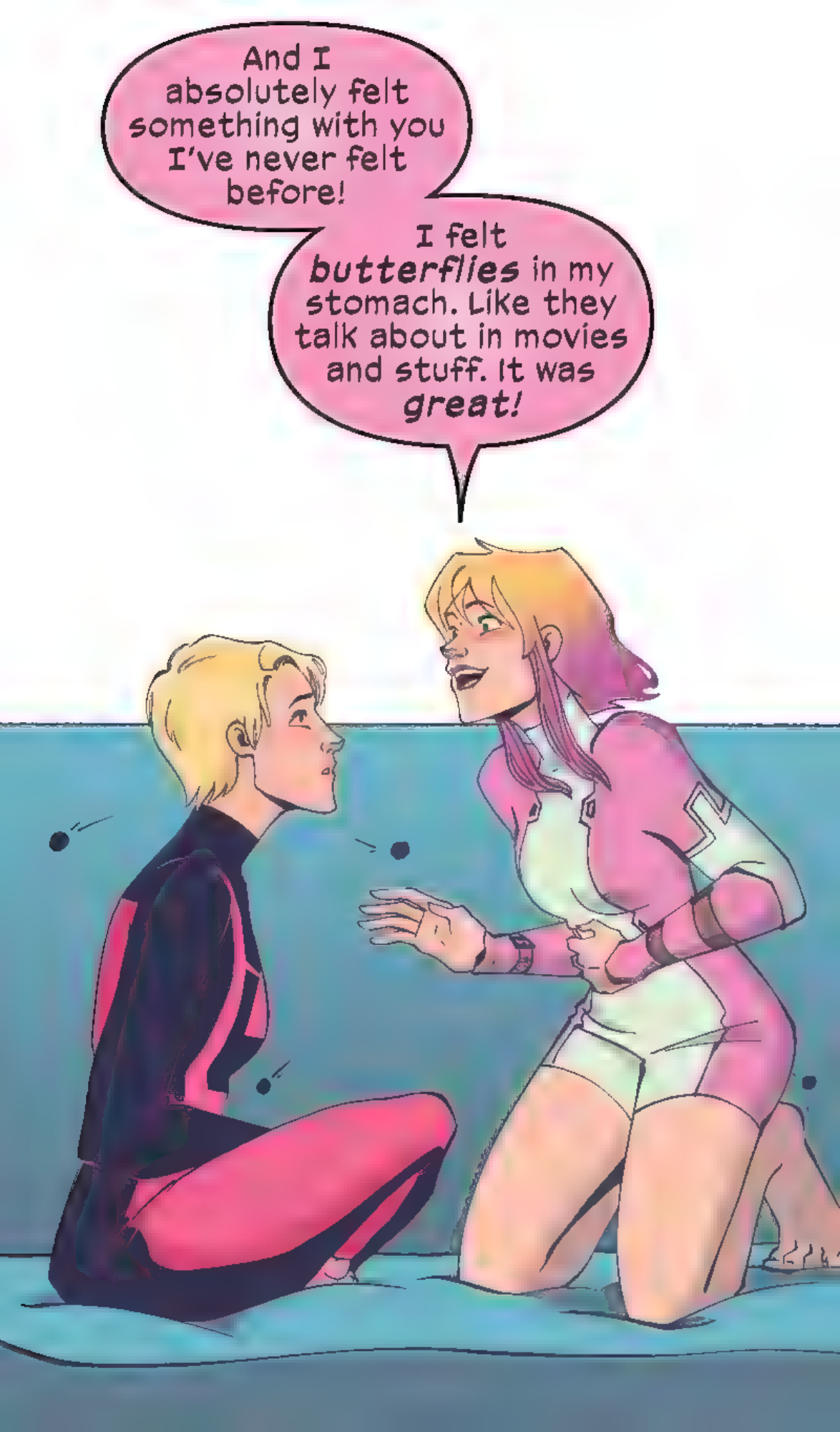
It's like two weird snakes wrestling in there.



If you hated it, Gwen, why didn't you say something? Or not do it?



Well, I really liked being with you and you liked it, so I figured it wasn't so bad.


And I absolutely felt something with you I've never felt before!
I felt *butterflies* in my stomach. Like they talk about in movies and stuff. It was *great!*

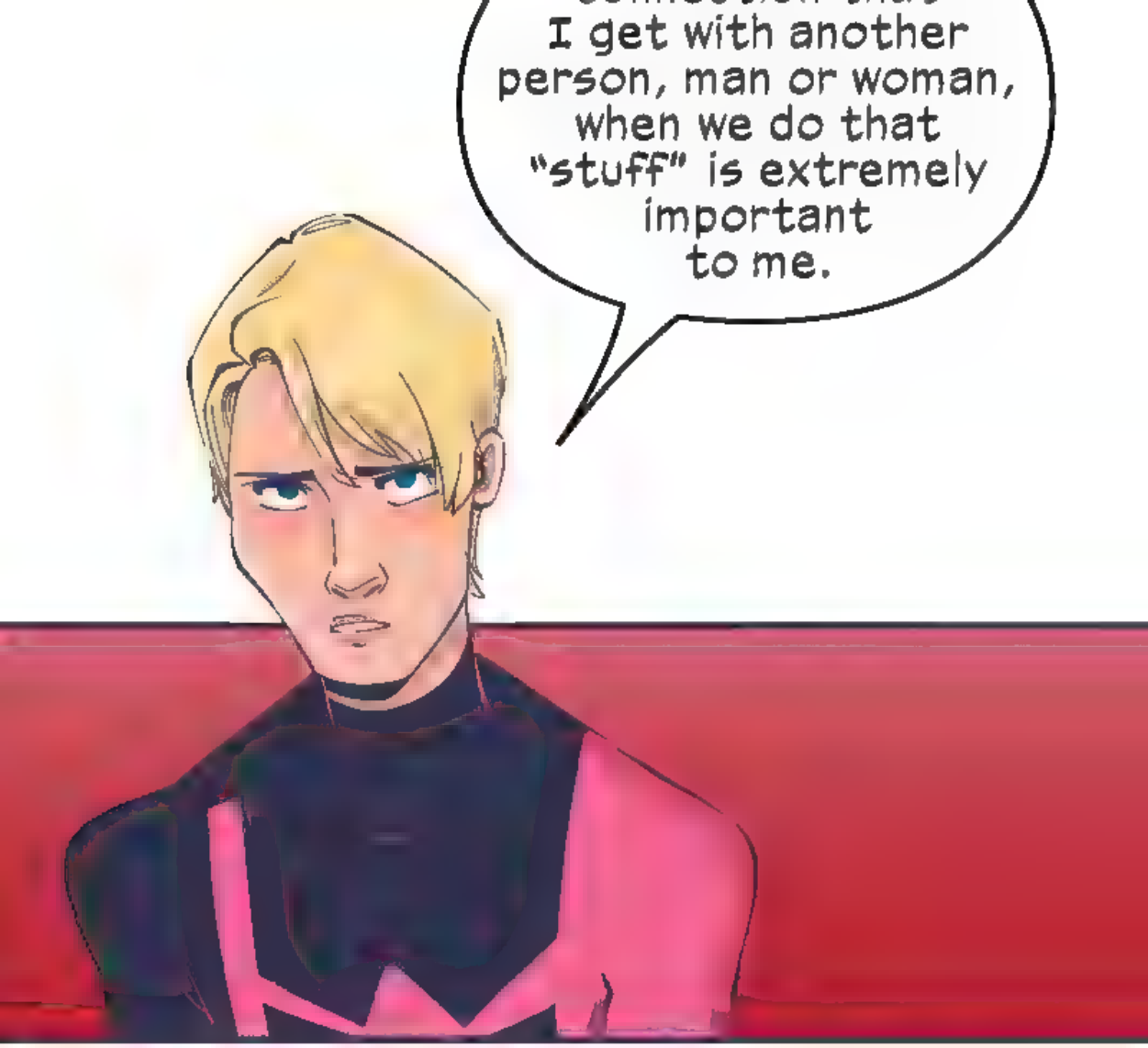
When you rescued me! You scooped me up in your arms and I looked up at your face and I just...
And that lunch in the diner! Oh my gosh, I couldn't stop looking at you. I wanted to, like...touch you to be sure you were real. I've never felt that before!

You can't beat yourself up for not feeling like you did in that moment. That's not fair to yourself.

Believe me, my last girlfriend literally carried me on her back during a prison break.

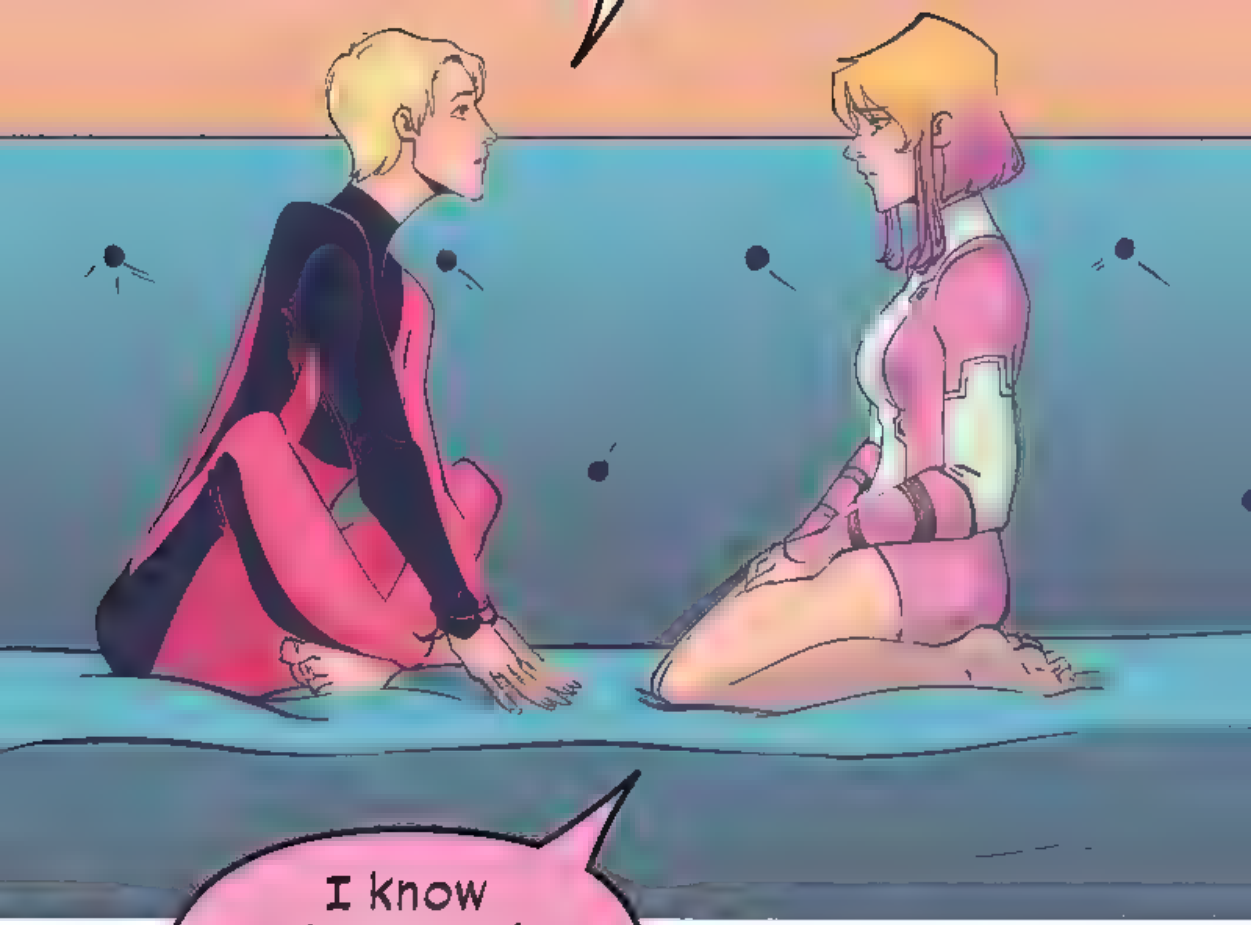
I literally couldn't have been hotter for someone in that second unless I was the Human Torch.
But things cool off. Even the Human Torch.

I know.
I just kinda figured that if I held on to that feeling, I could fake my way through... you know...the other stuff.
Just make some noises to make you think I was having a good time. Make you happy.
Gwen,
I really like you, but that doesn't work for me
at all.
That

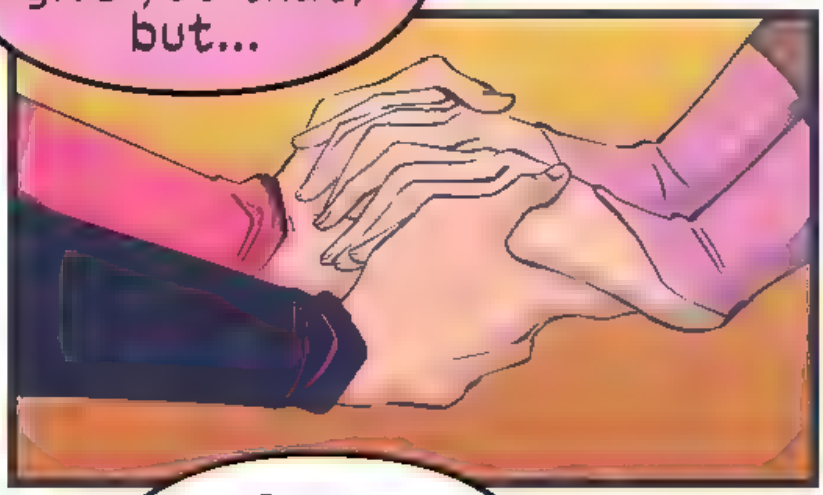


I was really depressed and down on myself after Karolina, but I got out of that by realizing something important.

I am an amazing, beautiful, smart and passionate person, and I deserve to be fulfilled.



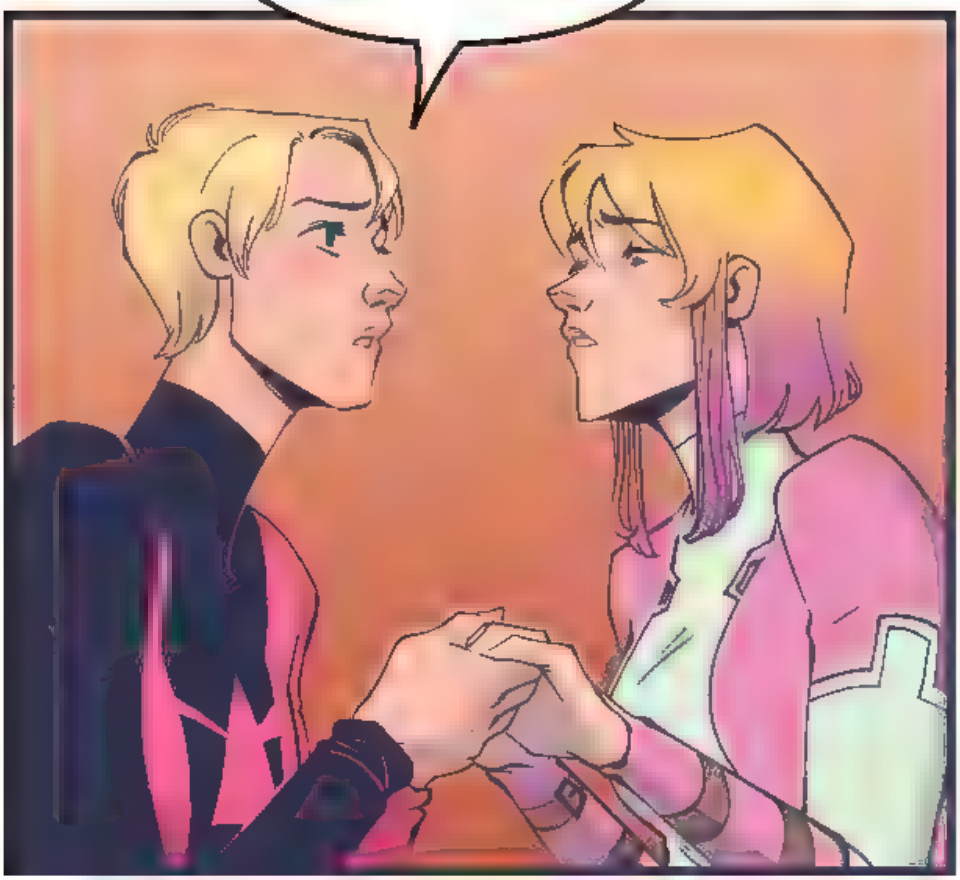
I know you're amazing. And I wanted to give you that, but...



Gwen, you're amazing and deserve to be fulfilled too.

But it seems like you're trying to be what other

people think you should be.



I need to ask you something.

Gwen... do you think you might be asexual?

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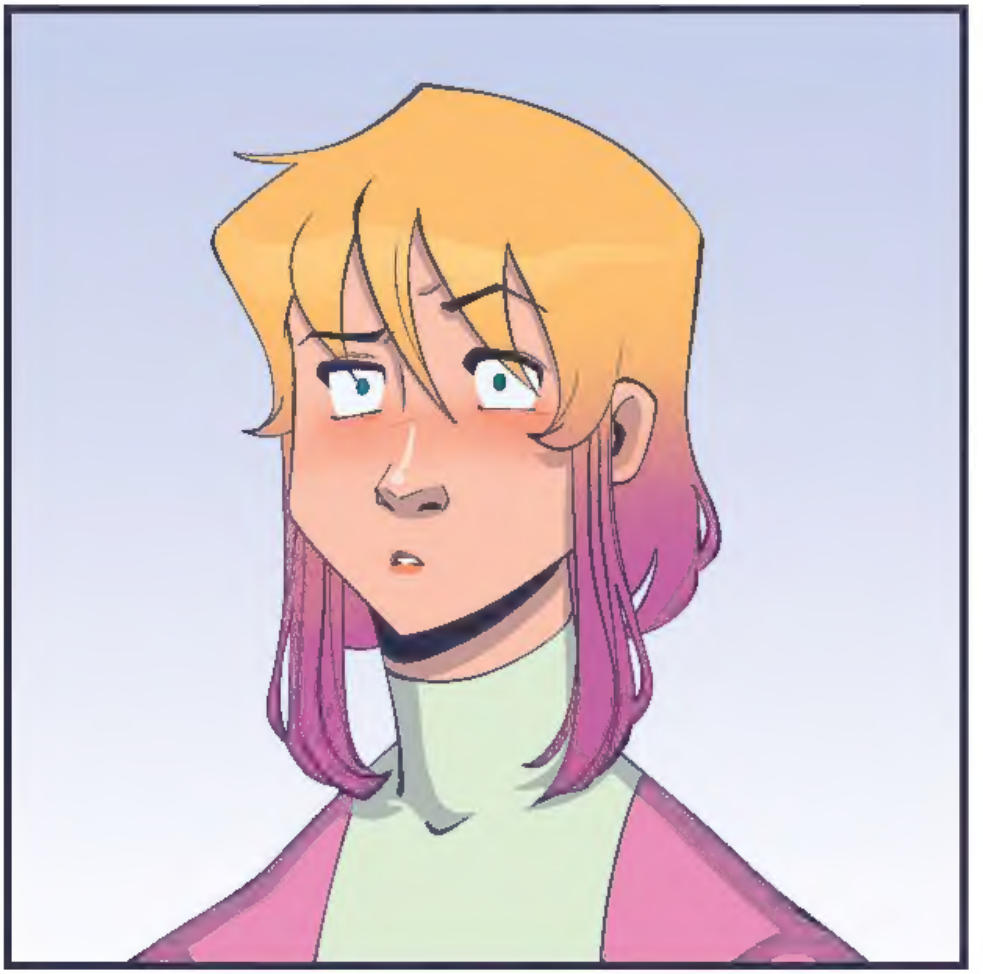

NEXT TIME: WAIT! WHAT?

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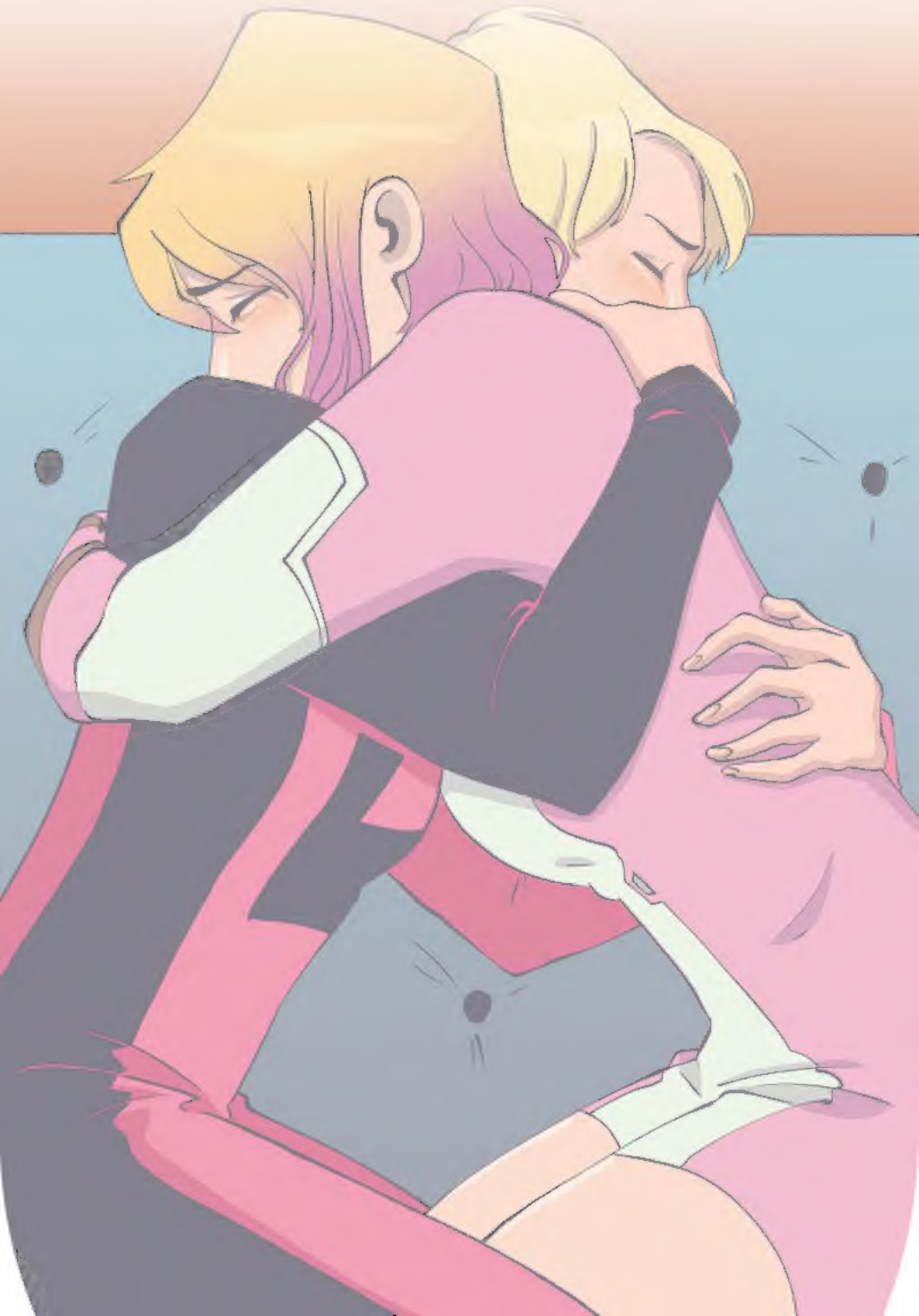

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